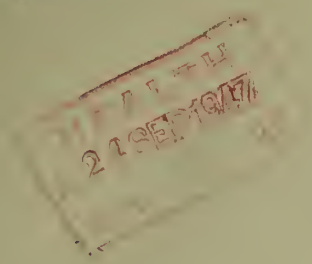


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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1946.



ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District  
of Cosford in the County of West Suffolk for the  
year ending 31st December, 1946.

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Public Health Offices,  
8, Whiting Street,  
Bury St. Edmunds.

August 1947.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the  
Rural District Council of Cosford.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable  
consideration my eleventh Annual Report as Medical Officer  
of Health, being that for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) Medical - One part-time Medical Officer of Health,  
Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,  
D.P.H. (Durham), Cert. Mental Deficiency  
and Allied Subjects (London), appointed  
in February 1937.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but  
holds in addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket U.D.C.	Appointed July 1st, 1936.
Mildenhall R.D.C.	" " " "
Thingoe R.D.C.	" " " "
Thedwastre R.D.C.	" " " 1938.

- (b) Others - One Sanitary Inspector,  
W. M. Taylor, Cert.R.S.I., Meat and Other Foods  
Certificate, R.S.I., appointed in 1939, also  
Building Surveyor, Petroleum and Explosives Officer.



SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	48,530 acres	
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year	<u>1945.</u> 9,014	<u>1946.</u> 9,065
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book.	3,098	3,111
Rateable Value.	£26,521	£26,749
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£116	£116

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	156	75	81
Illegitimate	8	4	4
<u>Stillbirths.</u>			
Legitimate	4	4	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Deaths.</u>	136	62	74
<u>Birth Rate</u> per 1000 population.	Cosford 18.1	England & Wales 19.1	
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u> per 1000 population.	" 0.44	"	" 0.53
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u> per 1000 total (live & still- births).	" 23.8		
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1000 resident population.	" 15.0	"	" 11.5
<u>Death Rate of Infants</u> <u>under 1 year.</u>			
All infants per 1000 live births.	" 24.4	"	" 43
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.	" 25.6		
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	" Nil		

4 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, (2 males and 2 females legitimate). No death from Maternal Causes (Headings 29 and 30), 19 deaths from Cancer, no deaths from Measles, one death from Whooping Cough, and no death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

On page 4 is a table giving some statistics for 1946 and for the decade from 1936 to 1945, during which I have reported as Medical Officer of Health. From this table have been prepared the decade average figures which allow comparison with this period and the year 1946.



On page 5 is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures, but one less male Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one more male Heart Disease were recorded locally.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

The following comments are offered concerning the number and age distribution of deaths during 1946 as recorded in the table.

Two deaths occurred on the first day of life  
 One death " at " " month of life  
 One death " during the second month of life.

These four deaths of infants before one year of age were associated with Prematurity, Congenital Malformations or Birth Injury and could, from birth, be regarded as inevitable, with the exception of the child during the second month, and here the cause was Pneumonia.

The two remaining deaths in the nonage were of a girl age 7 years, the cause being Influenza, and a boy aged 20 months, the cause being Whooping Cough.

Only seven other deaths occurred before age 45 years, being a male 27 years (Congenital Deformity), males aged 35 and 36 years (Pulmonary Tuberculosis), females aged 36 and 39 years (Cancer of Ovary and Cancer of Breast), a female aged 32 years (Acute Leukaemia) and a female aged 36 years (Road Traffic Accident).

Of the total 136 deaths there were 98 (72%) at age 65 years or over, the numbers of these in each quinquenniad being:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Age 65 to 69 years	5	8
" 70 to 74 "	16	4
" 75 to 79 "	7	10
" 80 to 84 "	11	12
" 85 to 89 "	9	9
" 90 to 94 "	1	3
" 95 to 99 "	1	2
	<u>50</u>	<u>48</u>

The increased number of deaths recorded from Cerebral Haemorrhage during 1946 is in keeping with the trend shown in Cosford and neighbouring Districts during the outbreak of war. The numbers of deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage recorded for each of my five Districts are as follows:-

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cosford R.D.C.	8	10	5	4	14	16	16	16	14	9	25
Mildenhall R.D.C.	10	6	6	11	18	15	17	14	15	16	20
Thedwastre R.D.C.	NR	NR	3	7	22	15	12	19	12	11	9
Thingoe R.D.C.	10	16	9	11	25	19	24	14	14	22	23
Newmarket U.D.C.	11	4	11	7	10	16	17	8	18	14	16
TOTAL:			34	40	89	81	86	71	73	72	93

N.R. The figures for these years were not recorded locally.



	Rateable Value.	Penny Rate Product.	No. of inhabited houses.	Registrar-General's Estimate Population.	Total Deaths.	Deaths under one year.		Births.		Stillbirths.	
						Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.
1936.	£23,210.	£105	2,707	9,091	126	4	-	131	9	3	-
1937.	£23,605	£107	2,923	8,912	145	4	-	105	4	5	1
1938.	£24,701	£112	2,942	8,941	132	4	-	114	4	5	-
1939.	£25,175	£113	2,975	9,230	156	5	-	128	3	1	-
1940.	£25,480	£116.	3,107	9,956	147	6	-	125	2	2	1
1941.	£25,423	£116	3,102	10,790	160	5	-	158	2	6	-
1942.	£25,539	£120	3,098	9,748	126	6	-	143	6	6	-
1943.	£33,218	£124	3,090	9,441	129	4	-	148	4	4	1
1944.	£26,240	£120	3,096	9,467	145	5	-	159	15	5	-
1945.	£26,521	£116	3,098	9,014	126	2	2	142	24	1	-
TOTALS FOR DECADE.	-	-	-	-	1,392	45	2	1,353	73	38	3
ANNUAL AVERAGE DURING DECADE.											
1936 to 1945.	£25,911	£115	3,014	9,459	139	4.5	0.2	135	7.3	3.8	0.3
1946.	£26,749	£116	3,111	9,065	136	4	Nil	156	8	4	Nil



Below is a table giving the causes and number of deaths in 1946 occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures, but one less male Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one more male Heart Disease were recorded locally.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.		Deaths at the Sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District.									
M = Male F = Female		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	TOTAL Registrar-Gen- eral's figures.		
		M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
4. Whooping Cough.		- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	
6. Tuberculosis of Respira- tory system.		- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	2 3	- 1	5	4	
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	-	1	
8. Syphilitic Disease.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	-	1	
9. Influenza.		- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	1	
13. Cancer of buccal cavity. & oesophagus(M)uterus(F)		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	-	1	
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 1	3	1	
15. Cancer of Breast.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	- 1	-	3	
16. Cancer of all other sites.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	1 3	5 1	6	5	
17. Diabetes.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	-	1	
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 4	12 8	13	12	
19. Heart Disease.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 3	13 15	13	18	
20. Other Diseases of circulatory system.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 3	3	3	
21. Bronchitis.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	5 -	5	-	
22. Pneumonia.		- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1	2	
24. Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	2	-	
27. Other digestive diseases		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	1 1	1	3	
28. Nephritis.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	-	2	
31. Premature Births.		1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	-	
32. Congenital malform- ations, birth injury, infantile diseases.		1 1	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	3	1	
33. Suicide.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1	-	
34. Road Traffic Accidents		- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	-	1	
35. Other violent causes.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1	1	
36. All other causes.		- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	3 11	3	13	
Males.		2 -	1 -	- -	- -	3 -	6 -	50 -	62	-	
Females.		- 2	- -	- 1	- -	- 4	- 19	- 48	-	74	



SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge continued to provide these facilities throughout 1946.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Red Cross Society Ambulances for general cases, Ipswich County Borough Ambulance for infectious cases, and the County Council Ambulance for Scabies Cases, were available in 1946 and dealt promptly with all calls made upon them.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. This work was carried on by nurses of the Local Nursing Associations residing in the villages of Bildeston, Brettenham, Elmsett, Groton, Kersey and Lavenham, whilst some parishes on the periphery are served by nurses residing at Hadleigh and Stoke-by-Nayland.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. These continued as in previous years.

(e) HOSPITALS. Some indication of the Hospitals used by the inhabitants of Cosford is obtained by recording that of the 136 deaths of Cosford residents which occurred during 1946, there were 92 which took place at the home of the deceased, one in a shed, one in a Cambridge nursing home and the remaining 42 in hospitals as follows:-

Walnuttree	(P.A.C.)	Hospital, Sudbury.	19
St. Mary's	(P.A.C.)	" Bury St.Eds.	3
West Suffolk	(General)	" " " "	5
East Suffolk	(General)	" Ipswich.	7
St. Leonards	(General)	" Sudbury.	3
London Chest	(T.B.)	" Camberley.	1
St. Audry's	(Mental)	" Melton.	4

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. 20.4% of the houses in Cosford have a piped water supply and a further 18.3% are within 200 feet of standpipes, as under:-

Parish.	Number of Houses on Piped Supply.	Within 200 feet of Standpipes.
Bildeston.	92	75
Boxford.	133	51
Brettenham.	67	2
Cockfield.	2	12
Edwardstone.	10	8
Hitcham.	58	54
Kersey.	4	4
Lavenham.	184	292
Layham.	-	7
Lindsey.	8	8
Nedging.	44	31
Polstead.	2	-
Whatfield.	32	25
TOTAL:	636	569



No extensions were carried out to the existing public piped water supplies during 1946, but 50 additional houses were connected to these supplies during the year.

The only major dislocation of supply from these public water undertakings during 1946 occurred on the 20th to 24th December when the water supply was cut off at Brettenham whilst the rising main was renewed.

During 1946 arrangements were made to adapt a 5" borewell at The Swan Inn, Lavenham, to serve as an alternative source of supply if a breakdown should occur in the present Lavenham source.

Water Samples submitted to bacteriological examination during the year totalled 47 and gave the following results:-

	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Council Piped Supplies	31	28	3
Other Supplies (a) Bores	1	1	-
(b) Surface Wells.	15	8	7

Warning notices were given where necessary to ensure that water was boiled before use.

The public water supply at Lavenham is chlorinated as in that drawn from Nedging which supplied the Aerodrome at Wattisham.

The extent to which water from piped supplies is available in the four Rural Districts for which I am Medical Officer of Health is indicated by the following table:-

	Percentage of Houses		Total Percentage using piped supplies.
	On piped supplies.	Within 200 feet of standpipes.	
Cosford	20.4%	18.3%	38.7%
Mildenhall	54.1%	0.6%	54.7%
Thingoe	8.4%	8.8%	17.2%
Tnedwastre	0.6%	1.4%	2.0%

From this table may be determined that in the past Cosford Council have made commendable efforts to bring pure and wholesome water to inhabitants of the District - the Council were pioneers among Rural Districts in this part of the country in providing chlorinated and softened supplies. Whilst, however, recognising the magnitude of the Council's efforts in the past it is now necessary to record that the multitude of small schemes provided have been by no means immune from administrative and public health worries, and, moreover, they serve no more than about two houses in each five in the District. THE PROVISION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLY OF WATER, PURE, WHOLESOME AND ADEQUATE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY. Present signs suggest that, because of circumstances beyond the control of the Council, possibly a decade will be occupied in the provision of a comprehensive supply - such a time lag will probably do irreparable damage to the agriculture of the District. These signs temper the satisfaction in recording that the main 27" bore near Nedging Mill for a comprehensive supply to the District was substantially completed by the end of the year. The original site of the bore was revised from the edge of Semer and moved just over the boundary into the parish of Nedging - it is still, however, referred to as the Semer Bore.



The borehole at "Semer" was commenced in October 1946 by Messrs. Le Grand, Sutcliffe & Gell of Southall. Drilling reached a depth of 60 feet without chalk being encountered, and in order to avoid unnecessary expense it was decided to sink a small diameter hole to find out at what depth chalk commenced. This proved that chalk was 96 feet below the surface. Having ascertained this, boring of the full diameter of 27 inches was resumed and drilling continued to a depth of 400 feet, from which level the main source of water seems to be obtained.

The bore was completed on 22nd January, 1947, and as the chalk appeared to be somewhat soft the first 140 feet has been lined to prevent collapse and to shut out all surface water. On completion of the bore its verticality was tested and was found to be well within the prescribed latitude of 4 inches per 100 feet. A description of the strata pierced is as follows:-

	<u>Thickness of each stratum.</u>	<u>Depth from surface.</u>
	<u>feet.</u>	<u>feet.</u>
Top Soil	1	1
Dirty Gravel	1	2
Large Gravel	18	20
Gravel and Clay	4	24
Loamy Clay	8	32
Sandy Clay & Stones	15	47
Gravel and Clay	3	50
Gravel	19	69
Gravel, Sand & Clay	10	79
Gravel	12	91
Chalky Gravel	5	96
Chalk	249	345
Belt of Flints	1	346
Chalk	54	400

#### Housing Sites Water Supplies.

The Council considered the desirability of providing piped water supplies to their new houses and decided upon the erection of towers and pumping plant, and the laying of mains on all major sites.

As a result of this decision three bores were sunk for the housing sites at Kersey, Elmsett and Monks Eleigh.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. 21 new drains were inspected and 36 cesspools emptied during the year. The main housing sites are being provided with small disposal units where public sewers are not available. Evidence and data was collected and correlated in the latter part of 1946 in preparation for a Public Enquiry to be held early in 1947 on the necessity for sewerage schemes in the three main parishes in the District, Lavenham, Bildeston and Boxford.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. The state of rivers and streams in many parts of the District leaves much to be desired - at Lavenham, however, the position is better described as desperate. The Council aware of the noxious condition of the river in the Lavenham, Brent Eleigh area are alarmed at the concomitants their own action in providing essential new Council houses at Lavenham caused, and they have taken all steps known to them to ensure that the utmost priority is given to the provision of a public sewerage scheme for Lavenham.



3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. At Lavenham, Bildeston and Boxford a twice weekly collection of night soil is provided. Experience in the difficulties of obtaining and maintaining the requisite tenders and labour for this service, particularly during inclement weather or during illness of the usual employees, has provided further reason, if such be needed, for the early introduction of sewerage schemes.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. In June 1946 a scheme of Refuse Collection was inaugurated in Cosford Rural District for the first time. The vehicle employed is a Shelvoke and Drury side-load type and all the parishes in the district are visited once monthly, except in the case of the semi-urbanised areas of Lavenham, Boxford and Bildeston, where a weekly collection is made. The material is dumped at Waldingfield in the Melford R.D. area, where a refuse pit is used jointly with that Authority.

Apart from bringing benefit to individual householders the scheme was extended so that a commencement was made in the removal of unsightly dumps which defaced the District.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The following particulars of sanitary work during 1946 have been supplied to me by Mr. Taylor:-

Number of Inspections or Visits.

Houses under the Public Health Act	37
" " " Housing Acts	484
Tents, vans, sheds	6
Factories	10
Shops	4
Cowsheds & Dairies	57
Butchers' premises	6
Water Samples	47
Dumps & tips	21
After Infectious Disease	7
Miscellaneous	132
Salvage	10
Food preparing premises	31
Re-inspections	107
Slaughterhouses, meat inspection	10
Schools	11

Factory Act, 1937.

10 visits to Factories were made.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 4 visits were paid to inspect heating, lighting and ventilation arrangements.

(v) CAMPING SITES. 6 visits to camping sites were made.

(vi) <u>SMOKE ABATEMENT</u> .	} No change.
(vii) <u>SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS</u> .	

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Nil.

4. SCHOOLS. The water, washing and sanitary arrangements were inspected during 11 visits.



SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	412
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	521
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	130
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	139
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	64
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	218
2. <u>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.</u>	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	41
3. <u>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders were made	13
(b) Undertakings accepted not to relet for human habitation	29
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
4. <u>Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.</u>	
(a) (i) Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year	12
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	18
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	81
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil.

The progress made with the "Hobhouse" Survey to date is that ten parishes comprising some 780 houses have been completed. The Public Health Committee adopted the procedure of their members visiting all houses assessed by the officials as likely to be Category Five (Beyond Repair) or Category Four (Suitable for Reconditioning with Grant). By the end of 1946 this Committee



had visited all such houses in four parishes (and two at Cockfield), had served, heard and decided Time and Place Notices for houses in these parishes and made the following decisions:-

13 Demolition Orders.	Aldham.	Ref.1, 2, 25.
	Whatfield.	Ref.27, 28, 36, 37, 38.
	Elmsett.	Ref.32, 33, 51.
	Cockfield.	Ref.A, B.

29 Undertakings Accepted Not to Relet.

Aldham.	Ref.22, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49.
Whatfield.	Ref.4, 5, 6, 22, 69, 70, 71, 72.
Elmsett.	Ref.21, 22, 46, 47, 55, 56, 65.
Wattisham.	Ref.11, 12, 21, 36, 37, 38.

To appraise the progress made during 1946 in the provision of new homes in the District it is necessary to recall that at December 31st, 1945, the Council had possession of two building sites but no site was under development, no tenders had been approved by the Ministry of Health, no houses had been erected and no temporary houses were allotted to the District. The position at December 31st, 1946, was :-

#### New Council Houses.

44 Permanent Houses approved by the Ministry of Health (including 12 Swedish Timber Houses). These had all been commenced and had reached these stages:-

Footings	2
Up to damp-course level	14
Up to eaves level	6
Roofed	20
Plastered	2
Total:	<u>44</u>

22 Temporary Houses, (8 Boxford, 14 Lavenham) the site works for these were 50% completed.

#### Private Building.

11 new dwellings were licensed, of which 3 were completed and 3 under construction.

#### Conversions.

5 Licenses for conversions to provide additional units of accommodation were granted to private builders. Two of these conversions were completed.

#### Requisitioning.

21 units of accommodation were provided in the twenty houses held on requisition by the Council.

In total, therefore, substantial progress had been made in the District towards the provision of 103 units of accommodation.



SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The number of Registered Cowkeepers and Dairymen in the District at the end of 1946 was 113. 57 visits were paid to Cowsheds and Dairies. Suggestions as to improvements in structures were made in 6 instances. No additions were made to the register.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Centralised slaughtering has taken regular killings out of the District.

Small quantities of canned foods and fish were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

} No change.

(e) NUTRITION. To those in this District who, by means of headlights, endeavour to keep the wheels of agricultural machines turning day and night during the seasons for sowing and reaping, as to the cowmen and shepherds attending at all hours the calvings and lambings as also the labourers and lorry drivers to be seen sugar-beet loading in the mists of dawn and the dark of soaking winter evenings the rations available to them and to their families must often seem poor recompense. They have, of course, the satisfaction of knowing that they are making, so far as their equipment allows, a full contribution to relieve world food shortages. There is want in the District of additional foodstuffs and this want allied to work to be done, to poor housing conditions and lack of essential water and sanitary services has produced a general lowering of the nutrition of the inhabitants.

(f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).

(g) WATER-CRESS.

} No change.

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During 1946 the need for surveillance of contacts of Smallpox arriving in this District after either air or sea travel focused attention on the need for vaccination. It was ascertained that two thirds of the children born in the District are successfully vaccinated, statutory objections are lodged on behalf of a quarter of the children born and the remaining one-twelfth either left the District or died prior to vaccination or proved unsusceptible. Posters were issued by the Council and exhibited widely throughout the District in an effort to instruct parents as to the procedure to obtain free vaccination for their children as also for the increased necessity for this to be done in view of modern travel means.

Vaccination in infancy is a safe process and but little likely to cause any distress to the child. This primary vaccination in infancy removes danger which might otherwise occur if vaccination is first performed at or after puberty. It is apparent that with compulsory military service, for youths likely to become a permanent feature, that the need for protection against Smallpox will appertain to all the youth who may see service abroad - moreover, journeys abroad for civilians will become commonplace. The Council is, therefore, satisfied that for parents of a quarter of the children born in Cosford to refuse this protection for their offspring is very unwise and it is hoped that many more will consent to this simple measure in advance of any epidemic which may occur.



The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital. It will be noted that the total number is 186 - the corresponding figure for 1945 was 140.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1946.

				Puerperal Pyrexia.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Infective Hepatitis.
TOTAL				M. F. 1	M. F. 4 3	M. F. 13 17	M. F. 57 60	M. F. 3 6	M. F. 8 5	M. F. 1 8
Age	0	to	under 1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	1	"	" 3	-	-	1 2	5 10	1 2	1 -	- -
	3	"	" 5	-	-	4 3	6 14	- 1	- -	- -
	5	"	" 10	-	-	6 9	36 25	- 1	1 1	- 1
	10	"	" 15	-	-	1 1	6 9	- -	- -	- 1
	15	"	" 25	-	1	2	- -	- -	1 -	- 1
	25	"	" 45	-	-	- 2	1 2	2 2	- 2	- 4
	45	"	" 65	-	-	1 -	1 -	- -	3 2	1 -
	65	and	over	-	-	- -	- -	- -	2 -	- 1

141 children (120 age 0-4 years and 21 age 5-14) completed Diphtheria Immunisation during 1946. 88 children previously immunised were given a Secondary or Reinforcing Injection. At the end of the year it was estimated that 53% of the children under 5 years of age and 95% of children between 5 and 15 years had completed the Diphtheria Immunisation Course.

The Percentage immunised under 5 years of age is better indicated by taking only those children 1 year old and not yet 5 years, as Immunisation is rarely completed before the child reaches 1 year old - the percentage then of age 1 year and under 5 years immunised was 72%.

This figure (72%) approximates to the desire of the Ministry of Health (expressed 23rd July, 1947, Circular 128/47) "that an intensive effort will be made to achieve the immunisation of at least 75% of all infants reaching the age of one year."

TUBERCULOSIS.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
25-34	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-44	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
45-55	-	2	-	1	1	2	-	1
55-64	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	3	7	3	3	4	4	-	1

47 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, Respiratory Male 16, Female 14, and Non-Respiratory Male 10, Female

